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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
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281

March 25, 2015

Honorable Tom Wheeler  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St. NW  
Washington DC 20554

Dear Honorable Wheeler:

I am writing to request that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) reexamine the radio frequency spectrum that it has assigned to the Amtrak Police Department. The current spectrum, intended for general-purpose railroad use, is antiquated, and prohibits Amtrak police officers nationwide from efficiently communicating with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. A transfer to the high-frequency radio spectrum currently used by the Nation's other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies would allow officers to perform their jobs more efficiently and effectively.

If the FCC were to give the Amtrak Police Department access to the higher-frequency spectrum, the resulting improvements to the Amtrak Police Department's existing communications network would be drastic and would enable Amtrak's nearly 500 police officers to communicate with the countless other local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies within the 46 contiguous states in which Amtrak operates. This would improve inter-agency response operations during periods of heightened security due to a terrorist threat or in the aftermath of a mass disaster or a domestic attack on our homeland.

Amtrak police officers work tirelessly to safeguard Amtrak employees, passengers, patrons, and infrastructure every day. They deserve the best tools to adequately do their jobs. Thank you for your consideration of this request, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Albio Sires  
Member of Congress



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 23, 2015

The Honorable Albio Sires  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2342 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Sires:

Thank you for your letter requesting that the Commission reexamine the radio frequency spectrum currently assigned to the Amtrak Police Department. Your views on this issue are very important to us.

In that regard, I recently circulated a draft Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to my fellow Commissioners that addresses the issue you raise. The draft NPRM builds on a petition for rulemaking filed by the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC), which urges the Commission to permit railroad police, including Amtrak police, to use interoperability and mutual aid channels in several public safety spectrum bands for the purpose of communicating with state and local law enforcement officials in railroad-related emergencies.

I appreciate your interest and will be happy to keep your office updated on additional action that the Commission may take in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tom Wheeler